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## THE HARPER GOVERNMENT HEADACHE

F-35 MESS GETS EVEN MORE COSTLY PAGE 24

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Thursday, December 13, 2012

 News worth sharing.



## BIEBER MURDER PLOT?

PAGE 16

Believe it or not: Justin Bieber was the apparent target of a grisly murder plot concocted by an inmate in New Mexico, state police said yesterday. When asked to comment, the singer's management released a statement saying only that they take "every precaution to protect and ensure the safety of Justin and his fans." MICHAEL KOVAC/GETTY IMAGES

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# Arena talks resume after council vote

### Deadline extended.

Katz Group representatives spoke at city council on Wednesday

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL  
[annalise.klingbeil@metronews.ca](mailto:annalise.klingbeil@metronews.ca)

Representatives from the Katz Group are pleased after city council voted to resume discussions about the proposed downtown arena and to find a mediator to help with negotiations before Jan. 23, 2013.

The motion passed by council late Wednesday afternoon will see a mediator appoint a financial analyst to evaluate assumptions and analysis from the Katz Group. The mediator will also help evaluate non-financial issues.

Following almost five hours of discussion and a

presentation from three members of the Katz Group, council also voted in favour of extending the deadline on the land agreement to April 30, 2013 (from Dec. 31, 2012).

After the nearly unanimous vote, Mayor Stephen Mandel told media that the arena deal is ultimately "all about money."

Mandel said all parties are now in a position to move forward and get some things done.

"We've got to get going. I mean, this is enough," he said.

In a press conference following the council meeting, John Karvelas, executive vice president of the Katz Group, thanked city council for re-opening the door to negotiations.

"Our aim today was to restart negotiations with the city of Edmonton. Again, we were very pleased that the vast majority of city council-

### Quoted

"Our aim today was to restart negotiations with the City of Edmonton."

John Karvelas, executive vice-president of the Katz Group

lors feel the same way," he said.

Karvelas presented at city council and answered questions from councillors along with Patrick LaForge, president of the Edmonton Oilers, and Michael Shugerman, the Principal of Shugerman Architecture + Design Inc.

While negotiations are back on, several challenges remain, including a Winter Garden bridge that Katz representatives said is "hugely important" to the project and \$100 million that's missing in funding for the project.

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## No penalty. Fracking blowout caused by too-close wells

A well blowout that spewed nearly 500 barrels of oil and water onto a central Alberta field last January was caused by a company fracking a well too close to an adjacent one.

But no penalties will result because the blowout didn't contravene any regulations, Darin Barter, spokesman for the Energy Resources Conservation Board, said Wednesday.

"There weren't any specific regulations. We require companies to operate safely, but regarding this one, (a rule) wasn't in place at the time."

The board has drafted new rules to cover such situations. The proposed regulations are now being reviewed.

Midway Energy didn't follow its own guidelines when it began pumping high-pressure fluids underground Jan. 13 near Innisfail, Alta., in an attempt to release oil deposits.

"Midway did not conduct the fracturing operation in compliance with its own internal procedures," concluded the board's investigation.

The result was a geyser of oil, natural gas, process water and fracking fluids from an adjacent well owned by Wild Stream Exploration. The mixture tainted the field and left a thin film on nearby trees.

The board found both wells were targeting the same formation about 1,800 metres underground.

Midway's internal guidelines say its drill hole should have been at least 135 metres from any other well. At their closest point, the two well bores were 129 metres apart.

As a result, pressure from the Midway well blew fluids up the Wild Stream bore hole. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Mike Grisch, inset, was identified by family as the man who died when police opened fire during an alleged armed robbery in South Edmonton Common.

METRO FILE /INSET: FACEBOOK

# Suspect in alleged robbery shot dead

**South Edmonton Common.** Incident-response team continues to investigate fatal incident

**ANNALISE KLINGBEIL**  
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An alleged bank robber, who was shot numerous times by two police officers on Tuesday, died Wednesday morning.

Family has identified the 24-year-old man as Mike Grisch.

Reached by telephone, a man who identified himself as Grisch's father said his son was a wonderful person.

"Right now I'm grieving. Right now everybody in my family is grieving," he told Metro.

"We lost a wonderful boy for no reason at all."

He declined to comment further.

Grisch was shot by police during an alleged robbery at the Canadian Western Bank at 99 Street and 21 Avenue on Tuesday afternoon.

Edmonton Police Services responded to a report of an armed robbery just before 2 p.m. at the bank within South Edmonton Common.

The fatal shooting is being investigated by both police and the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT).

The ASIRT investigation is examining the actions of

the police officers.

"It is still in its very early stages," said Sarah Jackson, a spokesperson with ASIRT.

"The investigators are collecting the witness information from the people that were on the scene yesterday and anyone else they deem crucial to the case."

On Tuesday, Clifton Purvis, executive director of ASIRT, said the alleged robbery suspect was struck "numerous" times by two uniformed members of the Edmonton police. He was transported to hospital in what was later labeled by police as life-threatening condition.

ASIRT has not released information on whether Grisch fired any shots at police.

No customers, employees or police were injured in

### Investigation

- The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) is an independent body, mandated by the province, which investigates all police-involved shootings.
- ASIRT does not take complaints from the public, rather files are forwarded to ASIRT by the Solicitor General.
- Police have not provided any updates on the alleged attempted robbery

Tuesday's incident.

1 NEWS



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# Differing expectations to blame for city charters delay: Premier

## **Mayors disappointed.**

Charters, which would give cities special legislative authorities, unlikely to be completed before fall election

**RYAN TUMILY**  
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City charters for Calgary and Edmonton likely won't be completed on schedule as the cities and the province can't seem to agree what the charters should achieve.

The province started down the process of creating the charters this past summer, but in a year-end interview with Metro, Premier Alison Redford said they likely won't be coming to the legislature next spring, or even before next fall's elections.

"My sense is we won't

have anything in place before the municipal elections," she said.

Redford said it appears Edmonton and Calgary's mayors have different ideas about what the charters should achieve.

"I think everyone came to the table with a different set of expectations, so I think the first part is to try and figure out what everyone's expectations are," she said.

The charters were supposed to be new legislative tools that would allow the province's biggest cities to better address some of their unique challenges. Both mayors were hoping they would provide new tax powers to meet city challenges.

Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel said he believes the city has done everything it can to bring the charters forward.

"It's very disappointing that we had a set timetable to get this done and it's not going anywhere and it's not

## **Unique challenges**

- The province and the cities signed a memorandum of understanding on the issue before the discussions got underway this summer.
- Several other large cities in Canada — including Toronto — have municipal charters giving them special authorities, because of their unique challenges.

for a lack of trying on our part," he said.

Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi was unavailable for an interview Wednesday, but did send a comment via email. "I hope to meet with the premier soon to bring her up to speed on this topic," he wrote.

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In a year-end interview with Metro Edmonton, Premier Alison Redford said the government and municipal mayors had different ideas about what proposed city charters would achieve. DARREN KRAUSE /METRO

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## **Going local**

### **Teacher contract talks break down**

Talks between Alberta teachers, the province and the school boards association have officially broken down, sending contract negotiations back to local school boards.

But the move to negotiating contracts with local school boards — the common practice prior to establishing a province-wide framework in 2007 — should not concern parents, said both the educa-

tion minister Jeff Johnson and Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) president Carol Henderson.

Henderson said Albertans sending their little ones off to school should be taking a keen interest in workplace issues currently plaguing teachers, including large class sizes and the resulting inability to properly attend to students with special needs.

"We're disappointed that this didn't happen," Henderson added. "The minister and the premier, we believe, have missed an enormous opportunity to improve classroom conditions with children and to contain their costs."

Johnson has said in the past he was not comfortable with restricting assigned hours for teachers; the ATA wanted to cap that total at 1,200 per year and was willing to agree to a two-year freeze on salary grids in return.

The minister said Wednesday the ATA pushed to keep veto powers over potential changes to teaching policy and accompanying legislation. "We do want to have a discussion about what a 21st-century teacher looks like," he said, adding the ATA had maintained veto power for the past five years under the previous contract.

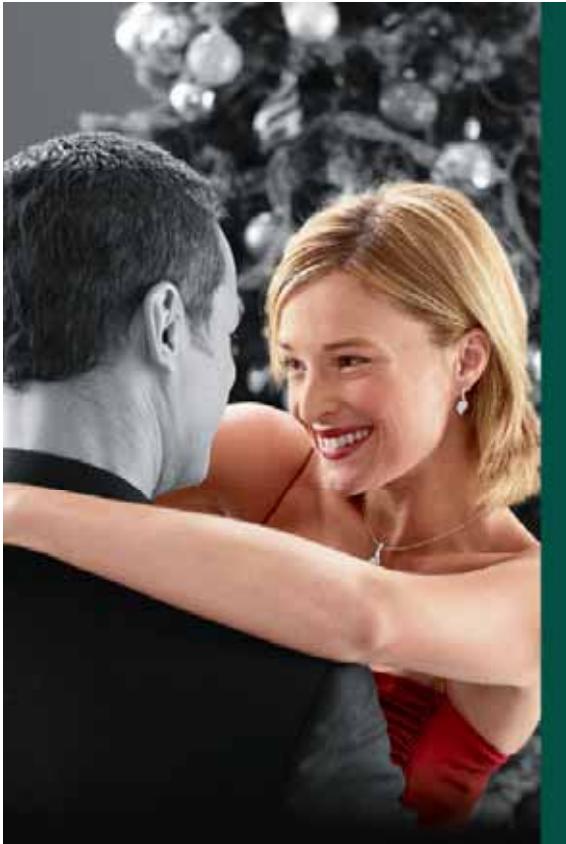
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## Gone for 10 months. Police ask for help finding missing woman

The Edmonton Police Service is asking for public help in locating a woman who has been missing since Feb. 15.

Marie Carlson-Hill, who goes by the name Toni, was last seen in the 107 Avenue area of Edmonton. Her family reported her missing on Sept. 3.

EPS said Carlson-Hill is known to travel outside the province, but said it was not like her to be out of contact for such a long time.



Marie Carlson-Hill  
CONTRIBUTED/EPS

Anyone with information about Carlson-Hill's whereabouts is urged to call EPS at 780-423-4567 or #377 from a cellphone. Anonymous tips can be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. METRO

## Arson. Police, fire crews probe house explosion

A man is in hospital with serious injuries after a central Edmonton house exploded early Wednesday morning in a fire that investigators are saying was deliberately set.

Fire crews were called to the house at 122 Avenue and 104 Street shortly before 6 a.m., after a neighbour reported an explosion. Crews arrived to find the roof on fire, the north wall blown off and an unconscious man inside, Edmonton Fire Rescue spokesperson Michael Tucker said.

"We don't know the extent of his injuries, but do know he was taken to hospital in serious condition," Tucker said.

Officials say the fire was arson, and caused \$300,000 in damages.

Crews prevented the fire from spreading to nearby homes, which include a daycare.

Police are investigating along with fire officials.

122 Avenue is closed in the area of the fire.  
LAURIE CALLSEN/METRO

# EEDC targeting Chinese investment

**Expanding opportunities.** Council funding aims to bring Chinese capital to Edmonton

RYAN  
TUMILTY  
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With a \$725,000 boost from city council, the Edmonton Economic Development Corporation plans to draw Chinese investors to city businesses next year.

The corporation that promotes Edmonton asked for the funding for industry development, which president and CEO Brad Ferguson says is about showing the business community here that there are opportunities in other parts of the world.

"It is about exposing Edmonton-based businesses to opportunities for export, as China is looking for more

### Out for business

- The funding request approved by city council will cover three new employees, as well as new programming.

technology and more solutions for issues," he said.

Ferguson said many Edmonton companies that need funds to expand could find that investment in China. He also said Chinese firms are interested in both big energy companies and smaller firms.

"One of the challenges that a lot of foreign investors have is they don't know how to access the small businesses, and that is one of our priorities next year," he said.

He believes the investment will deliver big rewards.

"The area of economic development drives top-line revenue for the city, so we are not just a program on the expense side of the budget," he said.



EEDC wants to lure Chinese investment to smaller firms in Edmonton that are looking to expand. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

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Sunny, warm destinations, such as Hawaii, are a draw to many in Edmonton. Some would even rather spend their Christmas among the palm trees. HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO

# Winter getaways from Edmonton top some Christmas wish lists

**Day 6.** On the sixth of Metro's 12 Days of Christmas, we talk to people not only escaping winter's chill — but escaping it in time for the holidays



HEATHER  
MCINTYRE

heather.mcintyre@metronews.ca

A white Christmas is pretty much a guarantee in Edmonton, but some people want nothing to do with it.

Winter getaways are popular, and some people are ensuring they leave YEG in time to have some festive fun elsewhere.

Stephanie Chamberlain, 25, flies to Las Vegas with her boyfriend on Christmas Eve.

"We had been discussing going somewhere warmer than Vegas — Mexico, Dominican Republic — (but) we were just kind of waiting for

a last-minute deal," she said. The forecast for Vegas is around 13 C, which isn't tropical — but is warmer than Edmonton.

Chamberlain, who grew up in New Brunswick before moving to Edmonton, said this will mark her first Christmas away from family and snow.

"I will not miss having a white Christmas whatsoever," she said. "I will most definitely be too busy enjoying all the food, drinks and shows in Vegas to miss this cold and snow."

This year will also be 22-year-old Carson McConnell's first Christmas in warmer weather, as she heads to Palm Springs Dec. 23, where her dad Terry has been since mid-October.

"I'm going down there because my dad is down there," she said. "But also, if last year was any indicator, I'm going to be working late in the middle of the cold snap in January, so I might as well soak up the heat while I can."

## Most wanted: Hawaii

When it comes to escaping winter, most Albertans dream of being on a beach, says the Alberta Motor Association.

According to a survey done by the AMA of its members last month, 47 per cent were already dreaming of a getaway during the cold weather.

Of course, that doesn't mean they have all booked a trip. But if they could — where would they go?

The top choice is Hawaii at 36 per cent, followed by the east and west coasts of Mexico at 32 per cent, California at 24 per cent and Arizona at 22 per cent.

To answer the desire to fly away, back in September the Edmonton International Airport added a number of new seasonal flights (October through April) to sun destinations.

HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO

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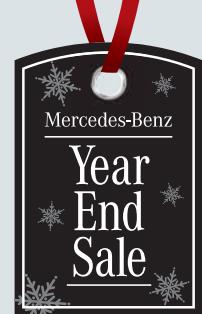


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A color photograph of a young man with dark hair, wearing a light-colored cable-knit sweater over a white turtleneck. He is holding a black rifle across his shoulder with both hands. He is looking off to the side with a serious expression. The background is a bright, possibly outdoor, environment.

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## New Mexico. Virgin Galactic's future at spaceport up in the air

The deal was sold to New Mexicans in classic Richard Branson fashion. If taxpayers would build the colourful British businessman a \$209-million US futuristic spaceport, he would make New Mexico the launching point for a space-tourism business catering to the rich and famous.

Now, with Spaceport America nearly complete but still mostly empty, a Virgin Galactic official says the company will reassess its agreement if lawmakers don't pass liability-exemption laws for its suppliers, raising the possibility it could take its spacecraft elsewhere.

State officials acknowledge

### A celestial courtship

- Texas and Florida are developing their own spaceports and aggressively courting space businesses.
- Virgin Galactic has entered a deal with an investment group to build another spaceport in Abu Dhabi.

the company — which has yet to post a deposit for what is supposed to be a \$1-million-a-year lease — could walk away from the quarter-billion-dollar project. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### France

## Notre Dame cathedral readies to ring in 2013

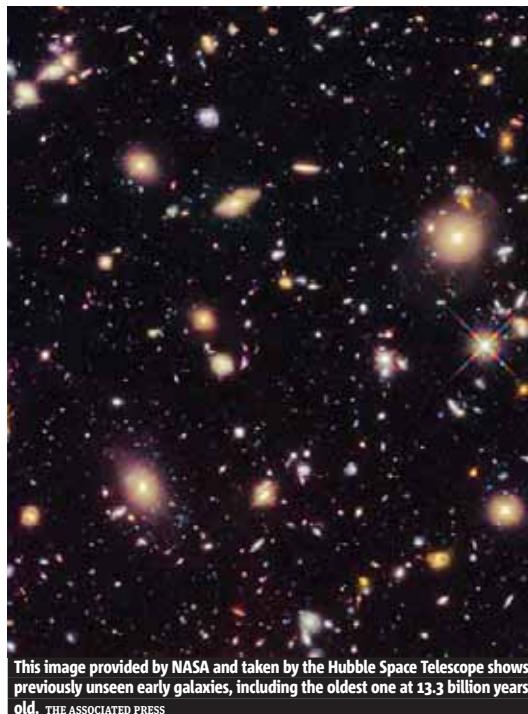
Dignitaries, tourists and Parisians gathered in the thousands Wednesday for a ceremony and Mass marking the beginning of the yearlong

commemoration of Notre Dame Cathedral's 850th anniversary.

The 12th-century Gothic cathedral looming over the French capital will get a set of new bells in February, one of the highlights of a year's worth of planned events including seminars, concerts of sacred music.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

# Distant galaxy retakes its title of oldest in universe



This image provided by NASA and taken by the Hubble Space Telescope shows previously unseen early galaxies, including the oldest one at 13.3 billion years old. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**Hubble's big find.**  
New photos reveal distant cluster of blue stars believed to be 13.3 billion years old

A galaxy once considered the oldest has reclaimed its title, scientists reported Wednesday.

Poring through Hubble Space Telescope photos, the team recalculated the galaxy's age and determined it is actually 13.3 billion years old — not a mere 13.2 billion.

The dim galaxy filled with blue stars was first noticed last year by a different group of researchers, who also used the workhorse telescope to make

### Quoted

**"We want to know our cosmic roots, how things got started and the origins of the galaxies."**

Harvard University astrophysicist Avi Loeb reacts to new telescope images of space

the previous age estimate. It reigned as the most ancient galaxy observed until last month when it was knocked off its perch by another distant galaxy.

Now it's back on top after the team used a longer exposure time to get a clearer view.

Besides refining the galaxy's age, they found half a dozen new early ones. Scientists are excited about the bounty of early galaxies, which should help refine theories about the formation of the first stars.

Astronomers think galaxies started appearing after the Big Bang, the explosion believed to have created the universe 13.7 billion years ago. Our Milky Way — one of hundreds of billions of galaxies — formed about 10 billion years ago.

Launched in 1990, Hubble has consistently peered back in time to reveal ancient and distant objects.

As far back as Hubble can see, it still can't capture the earliest galaxies. That job is left to its more powerful successor, the James Webb Telescope, to be launched in 2018.

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# Allegations against Savile 'unprecedented'

## 199 crimes suspected.

Police publish update on sexual-abuse claims against BBC presenter



In this 1986 photo, Jimmy Savile, right, poses with a wax model at Madame Tussauds museum in London. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The late BBC entertainer Jimmy Savile is a suspect in 199 crimes recorded so far, including dozens of cases of rape, British police said Wednesday. They described the level of sexual-abuse allegations against Savile as "unprecedented in the U.K."

The accusations against Savile, who died last year at age 84, grew after five women said during a TV program broadcast in October that they'd been sexually abused by the presenter. The claims triggered a scandal that rocked the BBC, which has been accused of failing to report allegations against Savile while making shows praising him.

Police said they are putting together a report on Savile's activities based on the alleged victims' evidence, expected to be published early next year. On Wednesday, police published an update on the probe.

Most of those people who

came forward were women who alleged sexual abuse when they were young, police said.

A broader police investigation into sex abuse spurred by the claims against Savile has so far detained seven suspects for questioning. They included former pop star Gary Glitter, 68, whose real name is Paul Gadd, and well-known publicist Max Clifford.

No criminal charges have been filed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## The allegations

- 199 crimes have been recorded in 17 police jurisdictions.
- 31 rape allegations have been recorded.
- 450 people have come forward with information, mainly alleging sexual abuse.

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# Dad who killed his children freed

A father who stabbed his children to death will be a free man, less than four years later.

Guy Turcotte has been granted his release, with conditions, from a psychiatric institution. The cardiologist had been found not criminally responsible for killing his two children and, since last year's court verdict, he had been in Montreal's Pinel institute.

His case provoked a torrent of outrage in Quebec, where Turcotte is a household name.

He had admitted to stabbing his young children 46 times but said he didn't remember doing it, hadn't wanted to do it and had been experiencing blackouts on the night of the killings.

He said he was distraught over the breakup of his marriage. His wife had left him for family friend who was her personal trainer.

Turcotte's release was unanimously approved today by a three-member panel.

He will have to get annual mental-health checkups, continue his therapy, stay out of trouble and avoid all contact with his ex-wife. But his legal woes are not over yet: The Crown has filed to appeal the 2011 court verdict.

The Tories plan to introduce a bill in the House of Commons early next year that would make the safety of the public the paramount factor for review boards that determine an offender's release.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Criminal code plans

Several cases like Turcotte's, including the 2008 bus-beheading in Manitoba and the Schoenborn child-killings in B.C., have prompted a federal policy change. The Harper government plans to make it more difficult for mentally ill offenders found not criminally responsible to be released from custody.



Singer Justin Bieber at a Dec. 5 event in Philadelphia. An alleged plot to murder the singer in November was foiled by police. LISA LAKE/GETTY IMAGES FILE



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# Alleged plot to murder Justin Bieber thwarted

## Disclaimer:

Warning: This story contains graphic details

## Suspected mastermind

- **Manipulator.** The police affidavit describes Martin as "a very good manipulator," who convinced Staake that he had access to large sums of money and a multimillion-dollar home and property, where Staake and Ruane could hide out.

- **Connections.** He also told Staake that he had connections to Chinese gangs in New York, who had "sanctioned" the murders, according to the affidavit.

A police affidavit alleges that two prison inmates and a nephew were hatching a plot to murder Bieber and his director of security while the singer was in New York for shows on Nov. 28 and 29.

Details of the grisly plan — which involved strangling two other victims with a paisley tie and then castrating them — were revealed Wednesday in an affidavit for arrest obtained by New Mexico State Police.

But the plot may have been thwarted by a missed highway exit and a pair of recorded phone calls between an inmate and one of the accused.

According to the affidavit, the plan was hatched behind bars after inmate Dana Martin was transferred from a Florida prison to the Southern New Mexico Corrections Facility in April.

Martin, 45, serving a life sentence for the rape and murder of a 15-year-old girl in Vermont, was reportedly obsessed with Bieber. He had written him letters and even had a tattoo of the singer on his leg.

He allegedly recruited Mark Aaron Staake, 41, a fellow inmate at the time, after Staake noticed the tattoo

on his leg. The plan was to kill four people in two states, with Bieber as the main target.

Oddly, the details were spilled on Nov. 20, when Martin asked to speak to police, telling them Staake (who had been released on probation on Oct. 22) and his nephew, Tanner Ruane, 23, had been planning to commit the first two murders — neither of them Bieber. New Mexico police declined to identify those intended victims.

Martin is serving consecutive life sentences for murders committed in 2000. The strangulation murder of the 15-year-old girl was a "case of jealousy," police told The Associated Press.

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## Argentina. Sex-slavery acquittals spur protest

The acquittal of 13 people accused of kidnapping a young mother and forcing her to work for years as a sex slave spread shock and outrage across Argentina on Wednesday, prompting street protests and calls by political leaders to impeach the three judges who delivered the verdict.

Many called the ruling a setback for Argentina's efforts to combat sex trafficking, which began largely as a result of Susana Trimarco's one-woman, decade-long quest to find her missing daughter, "Marita" Veron. Her lawyers said they would pursue appeals.

Trimarco's search exposed an underworld of organized-crime figures who operate brothels with protection from authorities across Argentina.

Security Minister Nilda Garre called the verdict "a tremendous slap in the face for the prospect of justice."

It "made society feel deeply the drama of this kind of 21st-century slavery, covered up for decades by the customs of a network of machista culture," she said, and "renders invisible the suffering of the victims of human trafficking networks and sexual exploitation ..."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A demonstrator, wearing a T-shirt that reads "We are not your prostitutes," stands in protest of the acquittal of 13 people accused in the disappearance of Marita Veron in Buenos Aires, Wednesday. VICTOR R. CAIVANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### B.C. borders

## Three arrested on child porn charges

Canadian border officials stopped three men with what was believed to be child pornography in separate incidents at air, sea and land border crossings in B.C. The first arrest was made Dec. 2, when guards discovered a laptop with illegal images on a marine vessel. On Dec. 5, a man was stopped at the airport and his laptop, phones and flash drives were seized. Later that day, a third man was arrested on a bus with suspected images of child exploitation on his laptop.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Big bust

## Woman arrested for coke implants

Spanish authorities say they have arrested a Panamanian woman arriving at Barcelona airport with 1.38 kilograms of cocaine concealed in breast implants. The Interior Ministry said border police noticed fresh scars and blood-stained gauze on her chest.

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## Holy tweet! Pope popular on Twitter

In this photo provided by the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Pope Benedict XVI pushes a button on a tablet at the Vatican on Wednesday. In perhaps the most drawn-out Twitter launch ever, the Pope's first tweet reads, "Dear friends, I am pleased to get in touch with you through Twitter. Thank you for your generous response. I bless all of you from my heart." The Pope has garnered more than one million followers in the eight languages of his account.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Jury sees gory scenes in trial of Que. filmmaker

**Graphic.** The violent, sexually explicit works were based on a serial-killer character Remy Couture created and portrayed

The jury hearing the trial of a Quebec special-effects artist charged with corrupting morals has had a chance to see his handiwork on Wednesday.

Remy Couture, a horror filmmaker and makeup artist, is charged with corrupting morals through the distribution, possession and production of obscene materials in a case that explores the boundaries of artistic expression.

The seven-woman, five-man jury silently watched hundreds of photos and a pair of videos that depict gruesome murders, torture, assaults and necrophilia — all with young female victims.

The jury is tasked with de-

ciding whether the material in question is obscene and dangerous enough to actually incite people to act out what they see, as the Crown contends.

Couture argues his work has artistic value and the state's interference amounts to an infringement of his right to free expression.

Couture's trial got underway Monday with jury selection and two weeks have been set aside to hear evidence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Basketball team beats opponent 107-2

An Indiana high school girls basketball team routed an opponent 107-2 this week, prompting an official with the state prep sports association to say he never wants to see anything so one-sided again.

Bloomington South coach Larry Winters told the Indianapolis Star there was no effort to embarrass Arlington or run up the score during Tuesday's game.

He says he played all nine of his players and didn't

stop shooting because "that would have been more embarrassing" to Arlington, whose only points came on a free throw in the second quarter and another in the third.

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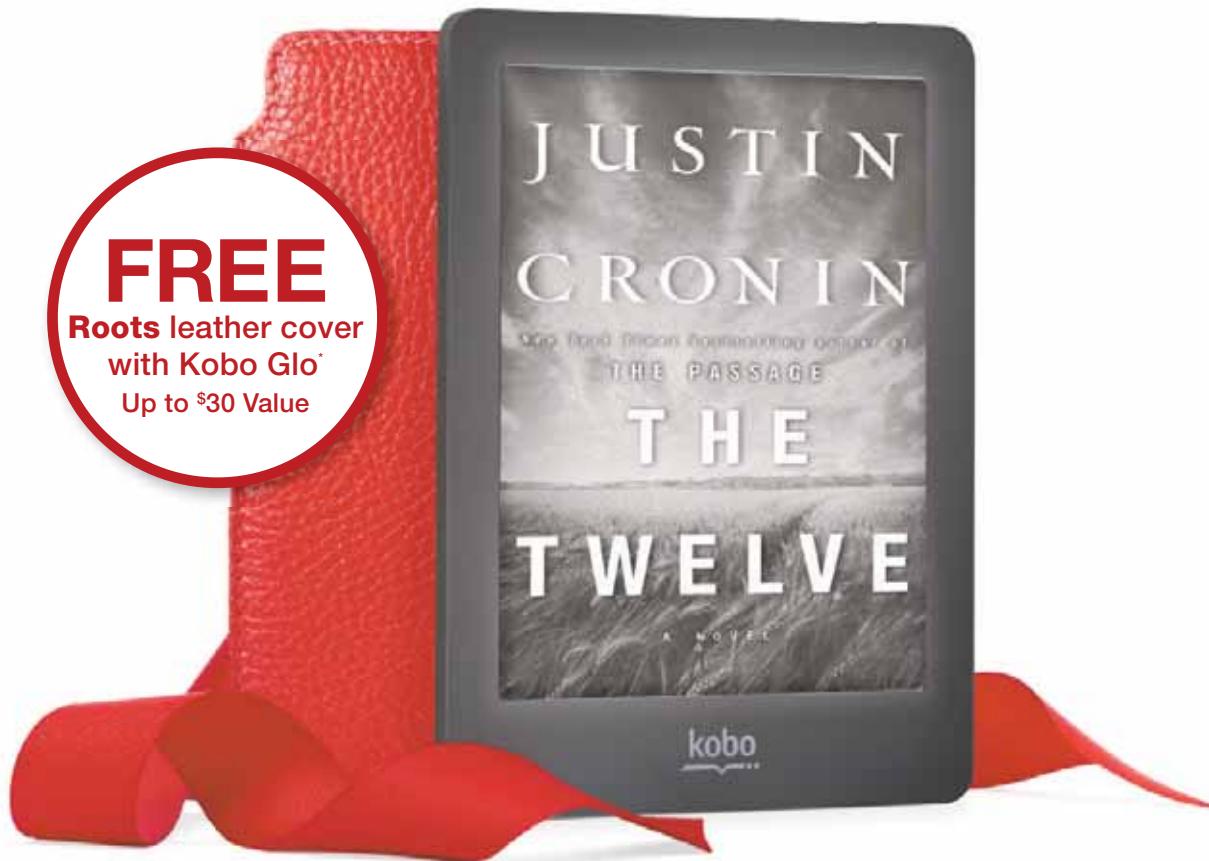
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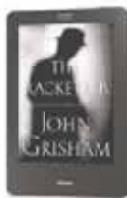
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PSY performs onstage during the Y100's Jingle Ball 2012 at the BB&T Center on Saturday in Miami.

MICHAEL KOVAC/GETTY IMAGES

# 'Gangnam Style' a top trending item for Google in 2012

**Zeitgeist.** Whitney Houston, Superstorm Sandy, iPad 3 and Kate Middleton round out year-end list of high-traffic searches

The world's attention wavered between the tragic and the silly in 2012, and along the way, millions of people searched the web to find out about a royal princess, the latest iPad, and a record-breaking skydiver.

Whitney Houston was the "top trending" search of the year, according to Google Inc.'s year-end "zeitgeist" report. Google's 12th annual roundup is "an in-depth look at the spirit of the times as seen through the billions of searches on Google over the past year," the company said in a blog post Wednesday.

People around the globe searched en masse for news

## What do you meme?

Facebook and Yahoo's top trending ideas or phrases (popularly known as "memes") include:

- **YOLO.** It means "You Only Live Once"—used both sincerely and ironically.
- **Binders full of women.** Mitt Romney's awkward description of his search for women cabinet members.

about Houston's accidental drowning in a bathtub just before she was to perform at a pre-Grammy Awards party in February.

Google defines topics as "trending" when they garner a high amount of traffic over a sustained period of time.

Korean rapper PSY's "Gangnam Style" music video

trotted into second spot, a testament to his self-deprecating giddy-up dance move. The video is approaching a billion views on YouTube.

Superstorm Sandy, the damaging storm that knocked out power and flooded parts of the East Coast in the midst of a U.S. presidential campaign, was third.

The next biggest trending searches globally were a pair of threes: the iPad 3 tablet from Apple Inc. and Diablo 3, a popular video game.

Rounding out the Top 10 were Kate Middleton, who made news with scandalous photos and a royal pregnancy; the 2012 Olympics in London; Amanda Todd, a Canadian teen who was found dead of an apparent suicide in October after being bullied online; and Michael Clarke Duncan, the "Green Mile" actor who died of a heart attack in September at age 54; and "BBB12," the 12th edition of "Big Brother Brasil."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Dead people 'liking' Facebook sites

A veteran Web developer has documented cases of dead people mysteriously "liking" a Facebook site.

Bernard Meisler, who is also an author and educator, tracked down a vegetarian who "liked" McDonald's and a Facebook user without a car who "liked" Subaru.

Facebook recycles "likes" of people alive and dead so

yours can pop up at any time unless you act to block them, a Facebook spokeswoman told Torstar News Service.

Meisler had become suspicious when non-English speakers started "liking" the Facebook page for his English-language arts magazine Sensitive Skin.

"This was suboptimal—not to mention extremely

weird—for a literary magazine written in English," Meisler wrote Wednesday in an article on the tech website ReadWrite.com.

Two friends were outraged to find posthumous Facebook "likes" for people they knew. In one, a man who hated big corporations had "liked" Discover six months after he died. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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# Bosnian Serb officer convicted of genocide by UN

## Srebrenica massacre.

'Right hand' of Ratko Mladic found guilty of having lead role in 1995 murder of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys

A UN war crimes court convicted a former senior Bosnian Serb army commander Wednesday of genocide for playing a key role in Europe's worst massacre since the Second World War, and sentenced him to life imprisonment, delivering another measure of justice to survivors still hunting for the remains of their husbands and sons.

In a majority ruling, a three-judge panel at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal said Gen. Zdravko Tolimir was the "right hand" of Bosnian Serb military



In this photo taken Tuesday, survivors of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre hold photos of male relatives who were killed, during a gathering in the northern Bosnian town of Tuzla, 149 kilometres north of Sarajevo. AMEL EMRIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

chief Gen. Ratko Mladic, who is considered the chief architect of the murder of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys at the Srebrenica enclave in eastern Bosnia in July 1995.

"The accused not only had

knowledge of genocidal intent of others but also possessed it himself," Presiding Judge Christoph Fluegge said. "He is therefore responsible for the crime of genocide."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Egypt.  
Blogger gets  
3 years for  
blasphemy**

A Cairo court on Wednesday convicted a Coptic Christian blogger who shared an anti-Islam film on social networking sites, and sentenced him to three years in prison for blasphemy and contempt of religion.

The case of Alber Saber is one of several seen by rights advocates as a campaign led by Egypt's ultra-conservative Islamists to curb free expression. Many of those targeted in the campaign are Christians, who make up about 10 per cent of Egypt's population of 85 million.

Saber was arrested Sept. 13 after neighbours complained he had shared on Facebook the amateur film made in the U.S. that sparked protests across the Muslim world. His arrest came during a wave of public outrage over the film, produced by an Egyptian-American Copt.

At the time, an angry mob surrounded Saber's house, calling for his death and accusing him of heresy, atheism and of promoting the Innocence of Muslims.

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# Monks form human chain to demand apology

## Myanmar crackdown.

Protest sparked by use of tear gas, smoke bombs to break up occupation of mine

Buddhist monks across Myanmar peacefully demonstrated Wednesday to demand a formal apology from the government for its recent crackdown on protesters at a copper mine that injured more than 100 of their monastic colleagues.

Hundreds of monks in Yangon and Mandalay, the country's two biggest cities, along with Monywa, the town closest to the mine in northwestern Myanmar, and at least six other towns marched in protest Wednesday as security forces stood by without interfering.

The monks said they are not satisfied with the apolo-



Buddhist monks march Wednesday during a protest in Yangon, Myanmar, against a violent crackdown on monks by Myanmar police at Letpaduang copper mine, which is located in Monywa. KHIN MAUNG WIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

gies made by the government so far. Police used water cannons, tear gas and smoke bombs on Nov. 29 to break up an 11-day occupation of the Letpaduang mine project, a joint venture between a military-controlled holding company and a Chinese mining company. Protesters want

the project halted, saying it is causing environmental, social and health problems.

Nearly 400 monks accompanied by hundreds of lay people marched in a human chain from the east gate of Yangon's famous Shwedagon pagoda to downtown City Hall.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## McAfee heads to Miami – flies coach

Software company founder John McAfee leaves a detention centre in Guatemala City and heads to the Aurora International Airport on Wednesday. He was put on a commercial flight bound for Miami, where he sat in a coach-class seat. McAfee was detained last week for immigration violations after he sneaked into Guatemala from neighbouring Belize, where authorities sought to question him about the murder of his neighbour. MOISES CASTILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## After the trial

### Activist's nephew faces Kafkaesque legal woes in China

A lawyer for the imprisoned nephew of Chinese activist Chen Guangcheng said his legal team would likely miss Thursday's deadline to file an appeal against his conviction because authorities have de-

nied their repeated requests to meet with him.

Blind legal activist Chen Guangcheng made a daring escape from house arrest and fled to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing in April, setting off a diplomatic tussle between China and the United States. He is now living in New York.

His nephew, Chen Kegui, was convicted two weeks ago of attacking officials who stormed his house looking for

his uncle and was sentenced to three years in prison.

Lawyer Ding Xikui said Wednesday that requests to meet with Chen have been turned down repeatedly by the Yinan Detention Center in eastern Shandong province, where he is being held.

"Chen Kegui's family insists on appealing, but we must get the approval from Chen himself," Ding said.

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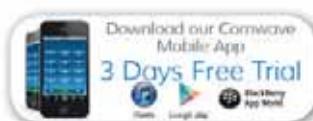
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# Tories 'hit the reset button': F-35 mess to be reviewed

**Bombshell findings shock MPs.** Costs could soar to \$45.8 billion over 42 years, long-awaited KPMG report warns

The Harper government has "hit the reset button" in the F-35 mess.

A bombshell report has exposed the cascading multibillion-dollar cost of the stealth aircraft.

The long-awaited KPMG report warns the Lockheed Martin-built F-35s could cost Canada as much as \$45.8 billion over 42 years.

The report says National Defence neglected to build a large enough financial cushion into the plan to replace Canada's aging fighter fleet.

And the paltry-by-comparison \$9 billion the department set aside likely won't be enough to cover the planned purchase of 65 jets.



That F-35 headache just won't go away. Defence Minister Peter MacKay takes part in a Parliament Hill news conference on the controversial fighter jets on Wednesday. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Now the entire process will be reviewed. Public Works Minister Rona Ambrose said Wednesday.

"The next step is a full

review of options," Ambrose told a news conference following the release of the report.

"We have hit the reset but-

ton and are taking the time to do a complete assessment of all available options."

Defence Minister Peter MacKay said the government

## Numbers game

### 65

The number of jets in the government's planned F-35 purchase. But the soaring costs may force a reduction to 55 planes.

will ensure "that balance is maintained between the military needs and taxpayer interests."

"Ultimately, our government will get the best plane for the armed forces, for our pilots and for Canadian taxpayers."

The NDP's Opposition critics were unmoved, however, insisting the government was steadfastly refusing to admit the whole process has been fumbled.

"You can't move on, you can't move forward, until you've admitted that you've got a problem and that you've made mistakes," said Matthew Kellway, the party's procurement critic.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Wire cash, please

### Skype scam almost pays off

Police are warning people to be on guard against fraudsters using Skype.

Kingston police say a resident got a Skype video call from a man identifying himself as a doctor held prisoner in Syria.

The supposed doctor said if \$2,500 was not transferred to a Western Union office in Lebanon, he would be beheaded. The victim wired funds — but later contacted police and stopped the transfer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Nuclear impasse

### Iran pressured on two fronts

A UN inspection team Wednesday pressured Iran to allow it to visit Parchin, a site it suspects may have been used for nuclear weapons experiments.

And European Union negotiators pushed for a new meeting with the Iranians in a bid to achieve a diplomatic solution to the nuclear impasse.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# N. Korea flies high over rocket, but UN brings it down to earth

**Pyongyang jubilant over launch.** Security Council warns of reprisals — but it all depends on China

Rocket-happy North Korea got an angry rocket on Wednesday ... from the United Nations Security Council.

It condemned the North Koreans' successful rocket launch and said it will urgently consider "an appropriate response."

But whether that response includes new sanctions against the North — which the United States and its European allies are seeking — depends first and foremost on China, the North's closest ally.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei said in Beijing the council's response should be "prudent and moderate and conducive to maintaining stability and

avoiding escalation of the situation."

The Security Council said the launch violates Security Council resolutions adopted after North Korea's nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

Secretive North Korea also broke a ban on "any launch using ballistic missile technology," it complained.

The successful rocket launch is widely seen as a test that takes the North Koreans one step closer to being capable of sending a deadly nuclear-tipped warhead as far over the Pacific Ocean as California.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Quoted**

**The launch "constitutes a very dangerous challenge to ... the security situation in the Korean peninsula and northeast Asia."**

Kim Sook,  
South Korea's UN ambassador



The flames of anger burn in South Korea over the North's rocket launch. In Seoul, protesters burn a mock rocket only to see police move in with fire extinguishers. South Koreans fear for the security of their country. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Air travel may be getting more stressful, but the drinks are getting tastier.  
ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Airlines put the fun back in flying with cocktails

**In-flight perks.** Lost baggage? Delayed connections? At least you can have a mojito

Airlines have found a way to take the edge off the stress of flying and make a few extra bucks along the way: fancy new cocktails, craft beers and elegant wines.

The drinks advertised in the back of in-flight magazines — or on sleek seatback touchscreens — are starting to resemble those served at nightclubs.

• Virgin America offers Grandma's Coffee, an iced cappuccino with Jack Daniels whiskey for \$9 US. Its beer selection includes San Francisco-based 21st Amendment and Black Star from Whitefish, Mont.

## Quoted

**"It's simply a matter of finding a way to get people to spend money. They see people spending \$12, \$14, \$15 or more for fancy martinis, cosmopolitans or other beverages on the ground."**

Henry Harteveldt, a travel industry analyst with Hudson Crossing

- US Airways has partnered with mixer company Stirrings to sell mojitos and cosmos for \$8 each.

- Delta offers the Sky Breeze, which is vodka, Fresca and a splash of cranberry-apple juice over ice for \$7. It also sells small-batch bourbon from Woodford Reserve for \$7.

Flying isn't what it used to be. Long lines, ever-changing security rules and limited overhead bin space have all made travelling much more stressful.

It's no wonder many passengers are looking for a little escape. Airlines, which created much of this anxiety in the first place, are happy to oblige.

"We wanted to do stuff to surprise people, be a little more different and have fun," says Megan Mosier Ireland, who helps design Delta's drink offerings.

The specialty drinks are part of a larger push to get passengers to pay for a little in-flight

luxury. Fliers can now opt for more legroom, Internet access or even shorter security lines, all for an extra fee. Those perks and others — along with baggage fees — now account for nearly seven per cent of U.S. airlines' revenue. That's up from just two per cent five years ago. The government doesn't require airlines to break out specific data on alcohol sales.

But airlines are clearly doing everything they can to drive liquor sales. And it's not just putting fancy drinks on the menu.

Want to buy a drink for that lovely lady across the aisle? Virgin America will soon launch a "send a drink" feature. Passengers can use the plane's seatback entertainment system to buy their neighbours a margarita, merlot or maybe a shot of tequila. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



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## Fiscal cliff. White House, Congress remain far apart on deal, Boehner says

U.S. House Speaker John Boehner said Wednesday that "serious differences" remain between him and President Barack Obama in negotiations on averting automatic spending cuts and tax increases that economists fear could send the U.S. economy over the so-called fiscal cliff.

Boehner's comments came as top Democrats pushed back on GOP demands for tough steps like raising the Medicare eligibility age and curbing the cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security.

Boehner and Obama spoke on the phone twice Tuesday, a day after the president offered to reduce his initial demand for \$1.6 trillion US in higher tax revenue over a decade to \$1.4 trillion US. But Obama

## Quoted

**"I think it's getting worse, not better."**

House GOP Whip Kevin McCarthy on the likelihood of averting the fiscal cliff.

continued to insist that much of the revenue come from raising top tax rates on the wealthy.

Boehner countered later Tuesday with another offer, but on Wednesday offered a sour assessment of the situation less than three weeks before the cliff would strike the economy with \$500 billion US worth of spending cuts and higher tax rates if left in place through September.

According to a statement from the investment company, all shares held by both Cascade and the trust are for investment purposes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Trains

### Bill Gates ups ownership in CN

Bill Gates has increased his overall stake in Canadian National Railway Co. to about 12 per cent.

Cascade Investment LLC, a company owned by the billionaire founder of tech giant Microsoft, has acquired an additional 13,670 shares of Canada's largest railway for \$1.25 million.

The investment company now owns a total of 43 million CN shares representing 10 per cent of the company. Gates controls an additional 1.98 per cent of CN stock through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a charitable trust.

According to a statement from the investment company, all shares held by both Cascade and the trust are for investment purposes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## European Union

### Ministers edge closer to banking oversight pact

European Union finance ministers moved closer Wednesday to creating a single supervisor for their banks after France and Germany said they had largely patched up their differences over the new body's powers.

The agreement on a banking supervisor is a vital part of European countries' efforts to protect themselves from future financial crises. Recently, it seemed unlikely a year-end deadline to set up the supervisor would be met because of disagreements between France and Germany. Wednesday's meeting was called because they failed to find a compromise last week. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Anti-corruption. Police detain Serbian retail tycoon

### EU membership at stake

- Serbia's nationalist government has launched several anti-corruption probes since coming to power in June. Critics say they have been mostly aimed at political opponents and allies of the country's previous pro-Western leadership.

- But Serbia must fight graft, if it wants to fulfil its goal of becoming a member of the European Union.

in the 1990s, and expanded it after the leader's ouster in 2000. Miskovic's wealth in 2007 was estimated at some \$2 billion US, but is believed to have grown since then. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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# Consumers turn the page on dedicated e-readers

**Tech trends.** Rapid decline in sales is part of move to general-purpose devices such as tablets

Sales of dedicated e-reading devices like the black-and-

white Kindles are in an "alarmingly precipitous decline" this year after five years of rapid growth, research firm IHS iSuppli says.

Full-blown tablets with colour screens are behind the decline, the firm says. Amazon.com Inc. now sells tablets under the Kindle

brand, and Barnes & Noble Inc. has added tablets to its Nook e-reader line.

IHS expects shipments of e-readers to fall from 23.2 million last year to 14.1 million this year.

The rapid rise and now rapid decline of e-readers is unusual even for the volatile

consumer electronics industry, says IHS analyst Jordan Selburn, but it's indicative of the broader trend of single-purpose devices like e-readers and cameras losing out to general-purpose ones like tablets and smartphones.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A young girl looks at a Sony e-book at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October in Frankfurt, Germany. Sales of dedicated e-reading devices are in an "alarmingly precipitous decline," research firm IHS iSuppli says. GETTY IMAGES FILE

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### Market Minute

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**OIL**  
\$86.77 US (+98¢)

**Natural gas:** \$3.40 US (-1¢)  
**Dow Jones:** 13,245.45 (-2.99)

**GOLD**  
\$1,717.90 US (+\$8.30)

## Canadian fallout. U.S. fiscal cliff imperils energy, mining sectors

### Consumer concern

- A new poll by Sun Life Financial suggests 63 per cent of Canadians are concerned our economy will be hurt if a deal to avert the fiscal cliff is not reached.

cap," Taylor said.

"And with slower U.S. — and read from that slower global economic activity — you would have to expect that the price of base metals and energy on which we depend so heavily would be affected negatively and they would certainly lose a bit."

### Social media

### Facebook to make privacy controls more user-friendly

Facebook is trying to make its privacy controls easier to find and understand in an effort to turn the world's largest social network into a more discreet place.

The fine-tuning announced Wednesday will include several revisions that will start rolling out to Facebook Inc.'s more than one billion users in the next few weeks.

The biggest change will be a new "privacy shortcuts" section that will appear as a tiny lock on the right-hand side at the top of people's news feeds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Market Minute

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# SHIELDS UP! RED ALERT!



**HE  
SAYS...**  
John Mazerolle  
metronews.ca

Friends, Romulans, countrymen! Lend me your pointy ears. I come not to bury Star Trek (frankly, Voyager did that), but to praise it.

Star Trek: The Next Generation is on Netflix now, and I'm completely engaged. To my surprise and delight, many of my Facebook friends have independently made it their priority No. 1, and it's resulted in the sort of long, passionate comment threads usually only seen under shared photos of ultrasounds and/or Stephen Harper.

I've complained in this space before that too much modern pop culture is just the repackaging of ideas we've seen before. But I can't deny the movies I've been anticipating most lately: Bobcaygeon The Movie (documentary based on a rock ballad); Les Misérables (movie adaptation of a musical adaptation of a French musical adaptation of a novel); and Star Trek Into Darkness (sequel of a reboot of a movie version of a TV series).

I can get all snobby at Men in Black 3, but if it's John's Crap: The Sequel, then my objections mysteriously disappear. In truth, if they made a movie of The Wire, I'd probably show up in costume (rumpled suit with vomit stains).

So, I apologize for my earlier complaints. Star Trek: Regurgitation is just fine by me.

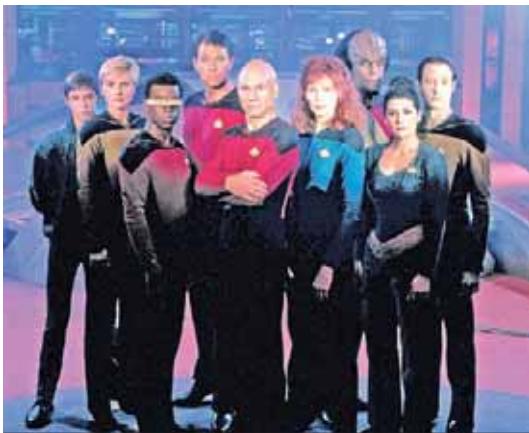
I was the perfect age for the original run of TNG — 11 years old when it debuted as a juvenile imitation of the original series, and 17 when it was over, by then a Hugo Award-winning masterpiece beloved by virgins worldwide. So going back to the future is a pleasant reminder of my not-so-dazed-and-confused youth — I get older, the Enterprise crew stay the same age.

In a world where people no longer meet in town halls and churches, some of us get our sense of community by discussing the legends of Vulcans or Orcs or hard-drinking ad execs. Whether that's a step forward or back I'll leave to you.

But what fun to get lost in the minutia of a 24th century where anything can happen except good roles for women. How wonderful to laugh at the stuff they got wrong (Picard's personal computer is amusingly thick) and got right (Picard and Riker discuss a European union). How satisfying to gauge a fellow Trekkie's knowledge level by their recognition of "Make it so" (beginner), "THERE. ARE. FOUR. LIGHTS!" (intermediate), and "All Husnock — everywhere" (expert).

My excitement led me to decide that I'm going to watch every worthwhile Star Trek episode, which after several hours perusing reviews and ratings online I've determined is 30 episodes of the original, six episodes of the animated series, 54 episodes of TNG, 69 of DS9, 29 of Voyager and 25 of Enterprise. (I just hope the experience doesn't turn me into a nerd.)

It's good to boldly go where I've already been before.



Taking us out of here, again: The cast of Star Trek: The Next Generation.

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# Love is sweeter by the dozen



KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## 12/12/12 SWAK

### Last triple-date to wed your mate

A couple kiss during a mass wedding ceremony at the Peak in Hong Kong, on Wednesday. At least 700 couples were expected to get married on the date 12/12/12, the last such triple-date in this year in Hong Kong as they believe the date will bring them everlasting love.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## When the clock strikes 12:12

### Twelve-word vows say it all

Federal Judge Donetta Ambrose, left, signals that there are five more minutes before she starts the wedding between Deputy U.S. Marshal Brian Allen, centre, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Amy Johnson in federal court in Pittsburgh on Wednesday. Ambrose started their wedding at 12:12 p.m. at the couple's request, where they exchanged 12-word vows on 12/12/12. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



KEITH SRAKOCIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Chinese numerology**

"One is considered a yang number, while two is considered a yin number. Combining the two can offer new couples balance."

Marketing firm Back Bar USA in a press release announcing its \$1,212,120 Las Vegas wedding package that included the use of a private jet, watches and earrings for the wedding party, and dinner at a Michelin-rated restaurant.



Register at [metropolitanpanel.ca](http://metropolitanpanel.ca) and take the quick poll

Pizza Hut is making a pizza-scented perfume. What other foods would you like in spray-on form?



## @SenseInCity:

Kudos to the guy on the 120 bus who stood up to the man who was being disrespectful and rude. #yeg #yegtransit

## @jprins:

I'm having a bad A.M. so far. The only silver lining is that someone in #yeg is having an inexplicably good A.M. Earth remains balanced.

## @brodeep:

Tried to get presale for Oprah in

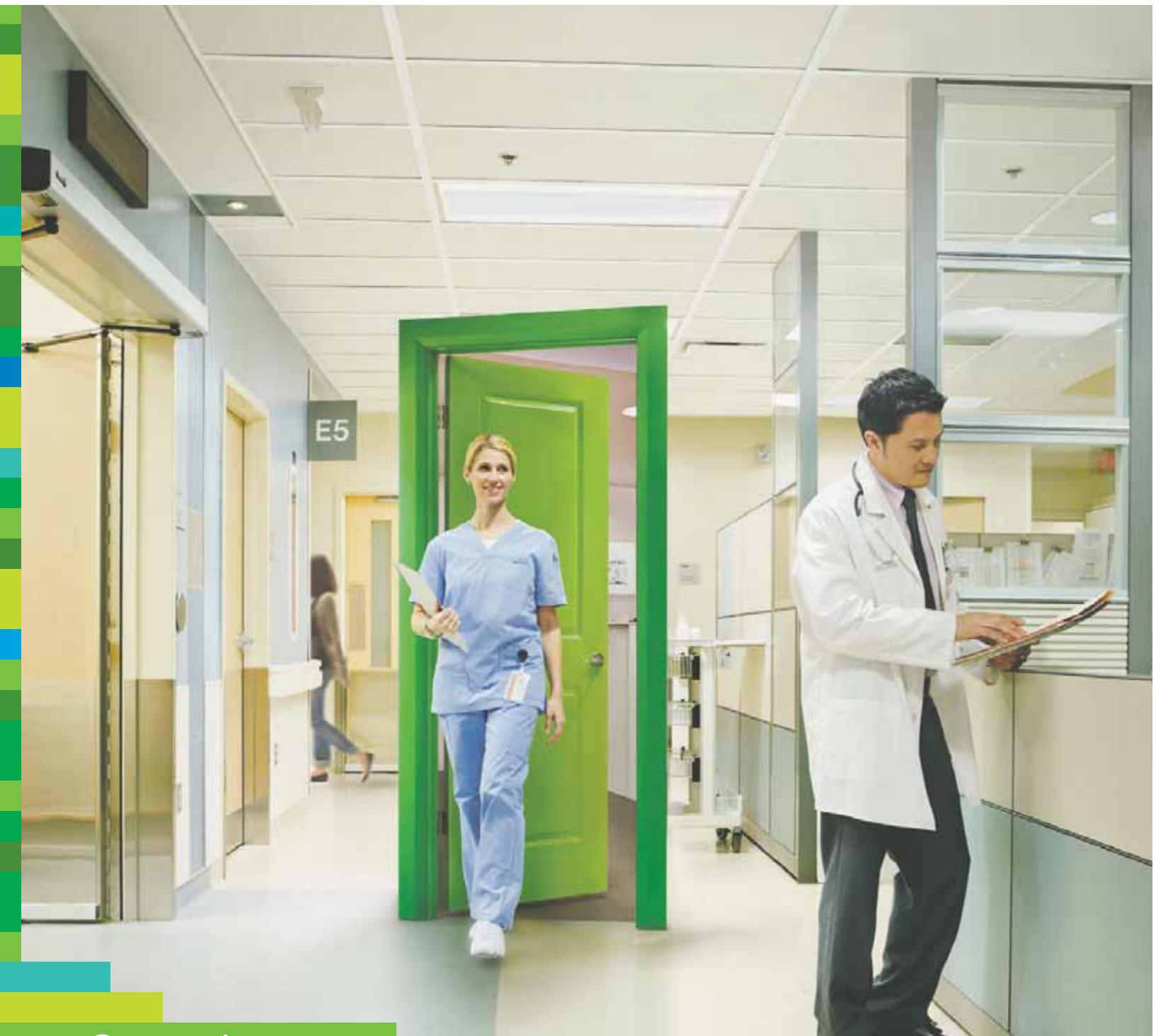
#yeg, but ended up getting Marilyn Manson presales instead. Sorry, mom.

## @Titlepending:

That wasn't very nice Mrs Sloan.... Twenty points from Slytherin. #yegarena #yeg #citycouncil

## @yegnumberg:

\*BREAKING NEWS\* A sweating Daryl Katz asks, "how many city councillors do we have? Like a hundred?" #yegcc #yegarena



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# Newcomers to the Tolkien universe discuss their place among new class

**The Hobbit.** Martin Freeman and Richard Armitage talk about how Peter Jackson's crew was very welcoming to new cast

HEIDI  
PATALANO  
Metro World News

In director Peter Jackson's eyes, Martin Freeman was always Bilbo Baggins.

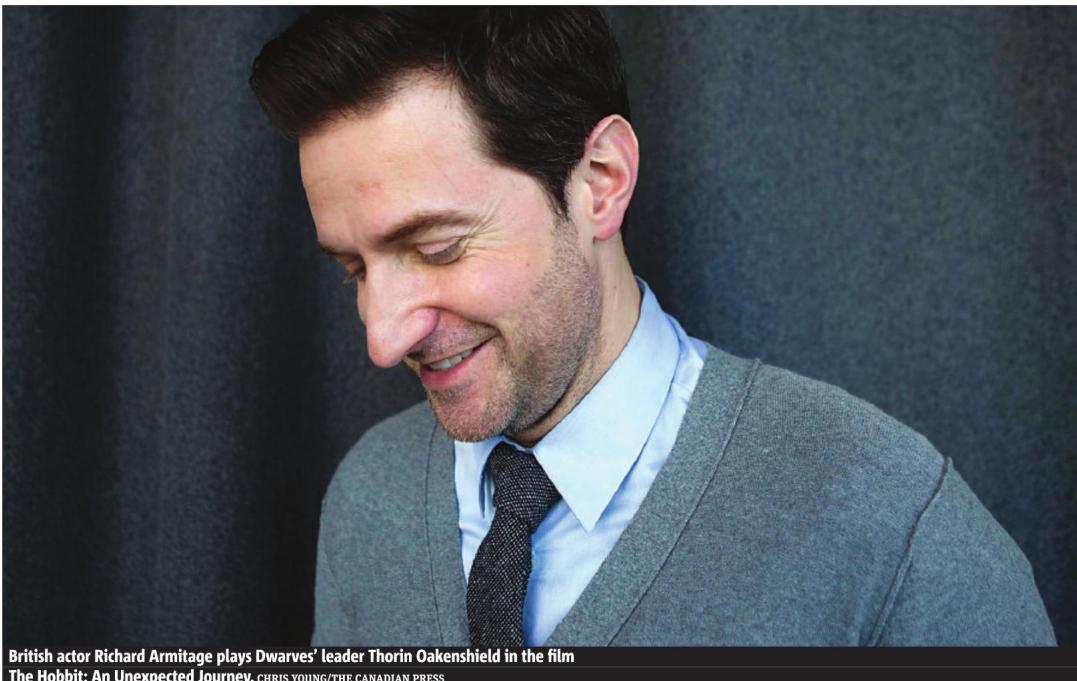
While Ian Holm does reprise his role as the older, wiser Bilbo in *The Hobbit*, there was something about the veteran of *The Office* and the BBC's *Sherlock* series that made Freeman an irresistible choice for this younger, more anxious version of Tolkien's most famous character.

"Martin is the only person that we ever wanted for that role and that was really before we met Martin," says Jackson.

"We just felt he had qualities that would be perfect for Bilbo — that essential kind of fussy English, slightly re-

**Quoted**  
**"In terms of coming into an existing franchise, we were just always made to feel very welcome, like we were coming into a family."**

**Richard Armitage**  
Talking about stepping into the Lord of the Rings production group.



British actor Richard Armitage plays Dwarves' leader Thorin Oakenshield in the film

*The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

pressed quality. We thought he'd be very good at playing that. He's a dramatic actor. He's not a comedian. But he's a dramatic actor who has a very rare comedic skill."

While not originally a fan of the books himself, Freeman was eager to join an already bonded cast and crew.

"My experience of Middle-earth was through the films which I think are still great pieces of work," Freeman says.

"From my point of view of turning up and being in-

volved with it, it was a pleasure to be with Pete. It was a pleasure to be with a crew that committed, to get to know actors I knew a little bit from home, but not very well who subsequently became friends ... It was great. It had a way of not being intimidating."

Also joining the cast was British actor Richard Armitage, who takes on the character of Thorin, a would-be dwarf king out to avenge the deaths of his father and grandfather. Despite the fact

that so many of the cast and crew from *The Lord of the Rings* series had returned for these three films, Armitage felt the loving embrace of a committed group of artists.

"In terms of coming into an existing franchise, we were just always made to feel very welcome, like we were coming into a family," he says.

"So many people returned that were working on the Rings trilogy. It was just very easy."

Easy in one sense, but

quite daunting in another. With the cast committed to a year and a half of shooting, the actual filming process was no casual stroll through Rivendell.

"Working with Peter, the thing that I've realized is that just when you think you've given him everything you've got, he asks you for more and somehow you find it," says Armitage.

"My own limitations of myself, I've had to let those drop because there's always more to give."

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Sufjan Stevens' version of Christmas is an alternative one. ALL IMAGES HANDOUT

**Naughty:** Is Sufjan Stevens trying to take up all our free time this season? Sure, this is a gorgeous collection of 58 holiday-ish tracks (we say "ish" because how is Prince's Alphabet Street a holiday song?). But keep in mind that



Stevens recorded these songs over six years. Listeners may want to pace themselves too.

**Nice:** There are a few songs on here that are the sonic equivalent of sugar plums dancing in your head. Draw the curtains, plug in your tree and zone out to the beautifully textured 10-minute plus opuses Christmas Unicorn and The Child with the Star on His Head.

#### Holidays Rule – Various Artists

**Naughty:** Speaking of compilations that start with a song by Fun., the We Are Young trio

have spread themselves too thin for the holidays. With their track, they take a Sleigh Ride down Broadway and make an ill-advised turn into '80s territory. Rufus Wainwright and Sharon Van Etten also deserve a lump of coal for their empty version of Baby, It's Cold Outside.

**Nice:** This one delivers the most bang for your buck. The Shins run McCartney's Wonderful Christmastime through a Beach Boys filter and turn it into something great. McCartney himself is on here too. Other great performances include Calexico, Eleanor Friedberger and Andrew Bird.



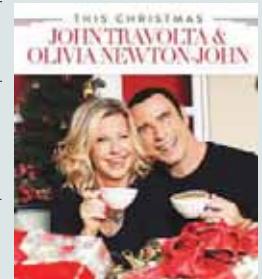
Merry Christmas, Baby – Rod Stewart

**Naughty:** Stewart exhumes the

#### The Grinch says ...

- This Christmas – John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John

If this collection came out in 1980 then maybe there would be a reason for it to exist, but in 2012 there's no need for these 13 tracks. The forced smiles while sipping cocoa on the cover shows that their old chemistry is now gone. We don't like to be Grinchy, but this is the sonic equivalent of reindeer poop.



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voice of Ella Fitzgerald for a duet of What Are You Doing New Year's Eve? Let's just hope there is no "live" performance, a la Virtual 2Pac.

"Hey, play that again!" about the original song that Stewart co-wrote, Red-Suited Super Man. Then you'll realize what you just said and lie that you were just kidding. Cee-Lo, Mary J. Blige, Bublé and Trombone Shorty also turn in notable cameos.

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# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



## The year in celebrity divorces



THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson

scene@metronews.ca

Yesterday we looked at the big celebrity engagements of 2012. (Aw, love!) So today we'll gaze at the years big celebrity divorces. (Boo, dead love!)

**Katy Perry and Russell Brand**  
**Announcement:** Dec. 30 (so technically this

occurred in 2011 but the fallout was in 2012. Work with me here, folks.)

**Length of marriage:** 14 months

**Reason:** "She's young, successful and dedicated," Brand said of Perry and her career in an interview with Howard Stern in July. "(The reality is) you can't fully understand it until you do it. I was really into the idea of marriage and having children." Translation: The recovering alcoholic wanted to settle down; she wanted to party.

**Contention level:** Low. Instead of anger, Perry just seems embarrassed she was ever associated with

the comedian. She recently hid under a table to avoid seeing him while she was having lunch with new beau John Mayer.

**Heidi Klum and Seal**

**Announcement:** Jan. 23

**Length of marriage:** 7 years  
**Reason:** Klum was apparently disturbed about Seal's "inability to control his temper."

**Contention level:** High. The two are currently involved in a very bitter custody dispute over their four children and Klum's estimated \$70 million fortune.

**Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise**

**Announcement:** June 29

**Length of marriage:** 5 years  
**Reason:** Cruise was reportedly blindsided by Holmes' highly orchestrated divorce proceedings. One reason for the split? Us Weekly claims that the couple "fought viciously" over Scientology parenting.

**Contention level:** Medium. The divorce was fast and furious (by comparison, Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries are still in negotiations). Cruise seems sad; Holmes ecstatic. And Suri is still well-dressed.

**Amy Poehler and Will Arnett**

**Announcement:** Sept. 6

**Length of marriage:** 9 years  
**Reason:** Their romance "fizzled out," RadarOnline.com reported.

**Contention level:** Low. They are too adorable to be mad at one another.



Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY

## Lohan won't follow Max and The Wanted

Lindsay Lohan has put an end to her gallivanting with on-the-road British boy band The Wanted, cancelling plans to follow the group to London and then Dubai, according to E! News.

Some suspected the change of plans was caused by Lohan's legal troubles, but the starlet is allowed to leave the country while on probation. Perhaps it's because her recent infatuation with Wanted member Max George reportedly isn't all that serious. "All they're doing is hanging out," a source says.



@KChenoweth

No one will see Paranormal Activity 4 with me.



@RealMichelleT

What would the Dowager Countess do?



@msleamichele

Another great day of work at #glee! Time to get some rest now! Another big day tomorrow! Xoxo



@rustyrockets

"@JonahHill: Ok so I've decided I'm going to get married soon, I'm just not sure to who yet" I'm free.



Florence Welch

## Florence the peacemaker at recent concert

Florence + the Machine singer Florence Welch turned peacemaker at a recent concert in Scotland, halting the show when she spotted two fans quarreling in the front row, according to Us Weekly. "I can't have a fight in front of me while I'm sing-

ing this song! No fighting allowed," she said. "I don't know what's happening but I'd like it to stop. It doesn't matter whose fault it is." Others in the crowd weren't pleased with the interruption and had begun chuckling nervously, causing Welch to chide them as well: "Excuse me, all of you. Stop it," she said. "I'm sorry all of you if you're upset." Welch then hopped off stage and hugged one of the fighting girls who appeared to be crying.



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# Bask in Rita's aura

Jay-Z's protege spills about her two-tone lip, her knack for nurturing her locks and her long-standing love for Lopez

ROMINA MCGUINNESS  
life@metronews.ca

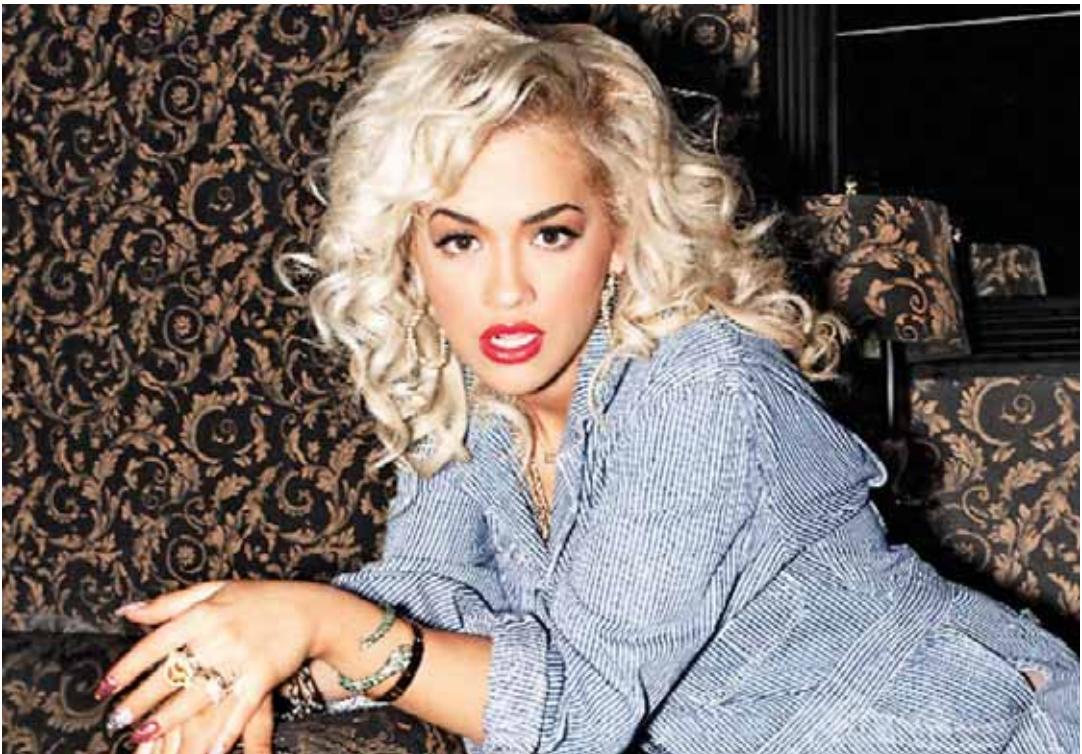
No one rocks a strong brow and bold lip quite like Rita Ora does. And so we felt compelled to pick her brain about her trademark look. In the process, Jay-Z's protege gave us a few tips on how to rock a two-tone red pout and the celebrity (it's J.LO!) whose complexion she covets the most.

**On her morning routine...**

"In the day, it takes about 10 to 15 minutes (to put my makeup on). If I don't have to wear makeup, I don't. I don't mind being caught on camera bare-faced. And I think having healthy, glowing skin is really important. On off days, I'll wear bronzer and a lipstick, but that's it. A red lip and black liquid eyeliner would be my easiest look. It looks good on blondes — but this is all bleached!"

**...and fancy, get-dressed-up, evening ritual**

"If I have an event, I might stick some lashes on and maybe put on some golden, bronzy eye shadow, something to make my eyes stand out a bit more. But in the evening, it takes me probably about 25 minutes to do my makeup — if I'm doing it properly. Do you know what I'm doing right now? The other day, I wore a dress that had pink and red, so I made my top lip pink and my bottom lip red. That was quite cool. We invented that with my makeup artist. Or you can do bright red on the outside and dark red on the inside and blend it all together. The main thing is making your skin look flawless, like you have no makeup on."



**She's not a natural blonde, but a natural beauty? No question.** HANDOUT

**Face the facts**

**"J.LO is my skin idol, I love her. Is that really crazy? Do I sound like a psychopath?"**

Rita Ora

**Her skin care before bed**

"I wash my face every night and use Crème de la Mer moisturizing soft cream as it makes my skin feel nice. But my skin isn't too bad

actually."

**The hair: to spray or not to spray**

"(My hair) takes a lot of work. I used to have really long hair, but when I started dying it and using curling irons and stuff, it dried it out. I'd literally have a hair spray in my bag, which isn't good. Now I use clip-ins so that I don't damage my own hair. I also do a lot of treatments — a lot of oils and masks. But your hair will only absorb

so much oil. You also have to eat good. So I eat things like fish for the oils."

**Lipstick or lip gloss?**

"I love a strong lip. I would see women like Marilyn Monroe and Gwen Stefani with red lips and they never looked like they gave a s---t about what anyone had to say about them. They had such confidence. They were just hot and sexy and not afraid to be different. When I put red lipstick on, I want to be

like them."

**About that tan**

(I feel the most beautiful when I've got a tan!)

**Her beauty icons**

"Kim Kardashian has good makeup. But J.LO is my skin idol, I love her. Is that really crazy? Do I sound like a psychopath? My mum's really good with makeup. She always has a different look. She used to say, 'Don't do a lip and an eye. Pick one.' I follow her advice ... sometimes."



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# Baby shrimp and crab meat make a delicious duo in delicate fried cakes



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I love the traditional fried crab cakes served in restaurants, but are they ever high in calories and fat! Here I've used a combination of baby shrimp and crabmeat and sautéed them in a very small amount of oil. The low-fat mayonnaise sauce goes beautifully with these delicate cakes.

They end up at 99 calories

## Ingredients

### Cakes

- 6 oz chopped crabmeat (or surimi)
- 4 oz baby shrimp (cooked)
- 3 tbsp light mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 1/2 cup dried unseasoned bread crumbs
- 1 large egg

and 5.8 grams of fat per serving.

1. To make the cakes, combine the crabmeat, shrimp, mayonnaise, lemon juice, green onion, cilantro, bread crumbs, egg, garlic, ginger and mustard in a food processor. Finely chop until the mixture just comes together. Don't puree. Alternatively, chop by hand.

2. Form into 6 cakes.

3. Spray a non-stick skillet with cooking oil. Add the vegetable

- 1 tsp crushed fresh garlic
- 1/2 tsp crushed fresh ginger
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp vegetable oil

### Sauce

- 1 tbsp light mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp low-fat sour cream
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 1 tsp low-sodium soy sauce

### Garnish

- 1/4 cup finely diced red bell pepper



**This recipe serves six.** BRIAN MACDONALD, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

oil and place over medium heat. Sauté the cakes for about 5 minutes per side, or just until browned and hot.

4. To make the sauce, combine the mayonnaise, sour cream, sesame oil and soy sauce in a serving bowl. Whisk until smooth.

5. Garnish the cakes with the diced red pepper and serve the sauce alongside. **ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)** BY ROSE REISMAN

## Cookbook of the Week

Seafood made easy

### 200 best canned fish & seafood recipes



Love seafood but don't have the time to get creative with cooking it? Enter 200 Best Canned Fish & Seafood Recipes By Susan Sampson.

The book is full of traditional and updated recipes, new creations and canned twists on classic fish dishes. The recipes feature canned seafood that can be found in virtually any supermarket across Canada: tuna, crab, salmon, mackerel, cod, sardines, clams, oysters, mussels and more.

Master dishes such as Salad Niçoise, Fish Tacos, Lemon Pepper-Shrimp Pasta, Lobster Mushroom Bisque, Crab Cakes, Tuna and Spinach Risotto and more. **METRO**

# Taste the rainbow — trout with relish that is

What we eat affects how we feel. And for those people living with arthritis, healthy eating habits can often be helpful.

The Arthritis Society has developed this healthy recipe for year-round entertaining. This elegant entrée is effortless to prepare and makes a leaner option than regular roasts, plus, trout is a great source of omega 3s. Serve with wilted baby greens and potatoes.

1. Trout: Preheat the oven to 425 F (220 C). Arrange trout on a lightly greased, foil-lined

baking sheet. Sprinkle evenly with salt and pepper. Blend oil with mustard, vinegar and thyme; brush evenly over the trout. Roast for 8 to 10 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

2. Relish: Meanwhile, heat oil in a large, non-stick skillet set over medium-high heat. Add onion, mushrooms, thyme, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring often, for 5 to 7 minutes or until browned. Stir in roasted red pepper, vinegar and garlic. Cook, stirring, for 1 to 2 minutes or until glossy.

## Ingredients

### Trout

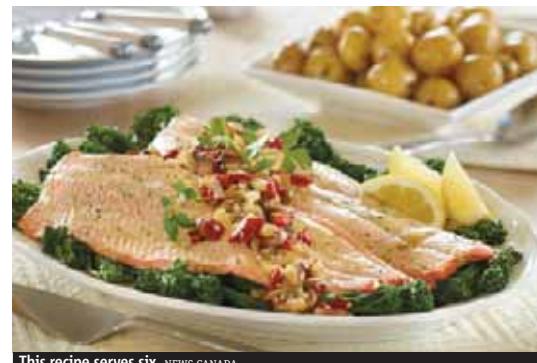
- 2 lbs (1 kg) boneless rainbow trout, about 2 large fillets
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt, pepper
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) each olive oil and Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp (10 ml) white wine vinegar
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) dried thyme
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil

### Relish

- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 cups (500 ml) sliced cremini or white mushrooms
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt, pepper
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped roasted red pepper
- 1 tsp (5 ml) white wine vinegar
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Lemon wedges

3. Spoon mushroom relish over trout. Serve with lemon wedges.

**NEWS CANADA / ARTHRITIS.CA**



**This recipe serves six.** NEWS CANADA

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# Christmas card clutter solutions



**DESIGN CENTRE**  
Karl Lohnes  
[home.metronews.ca](http://home.metronews.ca)

If you are the popular type then you probably get lots of Christmas cards sent to you each holiday season.

One of the most asked questions I get during the holidays is what to do with the cards and how to creatively display them.

I remember as a kid my Mom would string them up across our window in the living room.

She'd poke them into the edges of painting and mirror frames; basically riddling

them of tabletops in order to make room for trays of hard candy and nuts.

I've seen cards lined up on mantels, window ledges and credenzas, stuck to the fridge door and draped on a ribbon around door frames.

For a family home that might look charmingly chaotic, it's important to create order with decor, and greeting cards are no exception.

As a designer type, I am always conscious of displaying things around my home that add to my decor — especially during the holidays. Here's a few ways that inspire me to proudly put those warm wishes on display.

## Greeting Card Etiquette

- Display your cards into common groups: work related, family and friends.
  - At the end of the season, gather all cards and store them with holiday decorations for next year. You'll then have an auto-list of people to send cards to.
  - Up-cycle last year's extra-
- beautiful cards and use the front plackets as instant name tags for gifts. Just make sure there is no writing on the inside front.
- If someone sends you a card and its too late in the season to return one to them, send them a "thank you for thinking of me card" in the new year.



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## Holiday Card Holder

Organize 60 cards horizontally on a hallway wall or vertically beside the Christmas tree. \$65, [potterybarn.com](http://potterybarn.com).



Idea: lay your holiday greeting cards in a decorative tray and display on a coffee table. Allow guests to sift through them as desired.

**PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

# PLEASE DON'T DRINK & DRIVE

Metro and its partners would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday!

## Drive safe, drive sober

**Stats.** Impaired driving is leading criminal cause of death in Canada, police say

It doesn't seem to matter how often we talk about the dangers of drinking and driving. Someone, somewhere, isn't listening.

According to statistics provided by the Ontario Provincial Police, impaired driving is the leading criminal cause of death in Canada. And, sadly, arrests for impaired driving hit a year-long peak during the final weeks of the year.

For those who haven't noticed, the penalties for drinking and driving are considerably tougher, thanks to groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving

(MADD). Even for first-time offenders, defending a drunk-driving arrest is expensive.

"Everyone recognizes that the holiday season is a great time to reconnect with family and friends and celebrate with a few drinks," said Mauro Convertini, insurance expert at Aviva Canada. "It's important, though, to have a plan in place to get yourself and your loved ones home safely."

Convertini offers some simple tips to ensure a safe and happy holiday season:

- Plan ahead: If you are likely to consume alcohol at an event or party, don't take your vehicle.
- Use a designated driver: Remember, the "least impaired" person in the room is not a designated driver.
- Use public transit: If this is not an option, make ar-



If you are likely to consume alcohol at a party during the holidays, don't take your vehicle. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

rangements to spend the night if you are visiting a friend.

- Use a taxi or limousine service: There are more than 35,000 operating in Canada.

By following these sobering safety tips, let's hope Canadians responsibly enjoy the best of the holiday season.

NEWS CANADA

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# Cut deep: Roster trim looms at Canadian junior camp

**World juniors.** Top teenagers running out of time to make impressions with final selections expected Thursday evening

There will be tears. There will be anger. There will be disappointment.

It won't be easy, but Team Canada coach Steve Spott will whittle his junior roster to 23 players. The final cuts — players who have always been the best on their teams — are expected Thursday night.

Don Hay, coach of the Vancouver Giants and a two-time Team Canada world junior coach, doesn't envy Spott's position.

"You see tears. You see disappointment. You see anger. You see all the things that go with human emotions," said Hay, who coached the entry last year and in 1995. "You obviously feel for that young man, going through all those different feelings and then (having to) face the media. He's got to compose himself fairly quickly before he goes out and speaks."

"It's a tough 10 or 15 minutes for everybody involved."

For those who remain, there's a team photo Friday, then a flight Saturday to Finland for exhibition games prior to the puck dropping on Boxing Day for the world junior hockey champion-



University of Alberta Golden Bear Johnny Lazo checks Canada selection camp invitee Mathew Dumba during an exhibition game on Wednesday in Calgary. The Golden Bears won 4-1. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Quoted

**"I got away from my game last time. I was trying to prove to everyone how my defensive game had evolved.... I got away from my offensive side, which is why I got invited."**

Kitchener Rangers defenceman Ryan Murphy, who has twice been cut at world junior camp.

ship in Russia.

Those who don't make the roster will be whisked off to the airport for flights back to their respective teams. Few of the hopefuls have ever been cut by any team before.

Defenceman Mathew Dumba missed out last year.

"It sucked," he said. "It's a terrible experience. I got cut and I didn't fulfil my dream."

Spott is putting his own mark on how things are done. For one thing, the cuts are coming in the evening, not the morning. For years, the deed was done via 6 a.m. phone calls.

"It's not the most enjoy-

## First round of cuts

The Canadian junior men's hockey team released five players from its selection camp Wednesday.

- Defencemen Adam Peleck and Derrick Pouliot and forwards Francis Beauvillier, Sean Monahan and Tyler Graovac were cut, dropping the number of players competing for 23 spots on the team to 32.

- Four goalies, 10 defencemen and 18 forwards remain. Nine more hopefuls are expected to be released Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

able thing in the world," said defenceman Jesse Blacher, now with the AHL's Toronto Marlies, who was cut from the 2011 team. "You can't really sleep. They called me at 6 o'clock to let me know that I had been cut, that I wasn't making the team. It's disappointing."

Blacher doesn't think the timing will leave players any less nervous, though.

"They're still going to be nervous in camp throughout the day," said Blacher. "The main goal is to play throughout the day without the nerves. Go out and show them what you've got, do what you can do. Don't leave yourself doubting that you gave it all you could."

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Commissioner Gary Bettman heads uptown to address the media following the NHL board of governors meeting last week in New York. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

# Still walking around in circles

**NHL.** League and players' union gather in New Jersey, but no progress reported in new collective agreement

The latest round of NHL labour talks ended with the two sides in different rooms from each other.

The players' association and league negotiators met separately Wednesday with U.S. federal mediators in suburban New Jersey, holding discussions that didn't appear to have moved the sides any closer to a deal to save the hockey season.

There was hope going into Wednesday that negotiations could get back on track to the

## Quoted

**"I thought the gap would be closed much quicker, but it hasn't come to fruition yet, so we have to keep working."**

Brendan Morrison, one of 13 players to attend the latest talks on Wednesday.

point they were last Thursday before talks fell apart.

The NHL agreed last week to increase its make-whole offer of deferred payments from \$211 million US to \$300 million. It was part of a proposed package that required the union to agree on three non-negotiable points. Instead, the players' association accepted the raise in funds, but then made counterproposals on the

issues the league stated had no wiggle room.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman then said that the offer was being pulled from the table. However, mediators asked the union on Wednesday, if that proposal was back in play, would the players take it or leave it?

"It wasn't much of a decision," said Brendan Morrison, one of 13 players to attend Wednesday's talks.

The offer wasn't formally re-submitted by the NHL. Neither side made any proposals Wednesday.

"There were discussions of the various issues involved and how far apart we are and where we go from here," players' association executive director Donald Fehr said. "I can't tell you that any progress was made." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Amnesty clause

Players are fighting to give owners the right to buy them out once a new collective bargaining agreement is signed.

- The only other time in league history compliance (or amnesty) buyouts were offered, the players didn't make out too badly.
- Fourteen men had their contracts terminated for two-thirds of the remaining value during the 10-day buyout window that opened after the last CBA was signed in July 2005. Most didn't end up taking much — or any — financial hit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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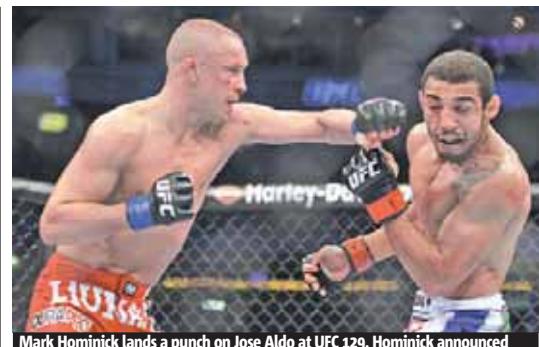
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Mark Hominick lands a punch on Jose Aldo at UFC 129. Hominick announced his retirement from MMA fighting on Tuesday. RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## MMA. Hominick throws in towel on fighting career

### MacDonald rematch

Canadian welterweight Rory MacDonald is getting another shot at Carlos Condit.

- UFC president Dana White confirmed by text to The Canadian Press on Wednesday that the rematch is slated for Montreal in March. The Bell Centre card is expected to be UFC 158.

In the end, Mark (The Machine) Hominick couldn't meet his own high standards.

The 30-year-old featherweight from Thamesford, Ont., announced his retirement as a pro MMA fighter via Fuel TV's UFC Tonight on Tuesday.

"I think it's the right move, at the right time," Hominick said in an interview Wednesday.

"I think I belong at the top of the food chain in the featherweight division. I think I belong with the Jose Aldo (the UFC champion), in that echelon of fighter. And if I'm not competing and winning at that level, then I think it's time for me to move on with my career."

And with a second daugh-

### Top players

#### Former NHLers honoured with Order of Hockey

Paul Henderson, Dave King and Mark Messier were named to the Order of Hockey in Canada on Wednesday.

The 2013 class will be honoured by Hockey Canada in April at a ceremony in Ottawa during the 2013 IIHF women's world hockey championship.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mark Messier has 1,887 points in 1,756 games over 25 seasons. ELISE AMENDOLA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ter just weeks away, Hominick says he can no longer commit to the kind of intense training needed. It's a sacrifice he can no longer make to his family.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Horoscopes****Aries****March 21 - April 20**

Focus on what you are good at and forget the rest. If you play to your strengths, you will soon be on the road to fame and fortune. Stop listening to what everyone else is saying and do only what motivates you.

**Taurus****April 21 - May 21**

Chances are you will have a flash of insight today that reveals how you can earn big money in the not too distant future. Don't forget though that the future depends a lot on what you do right now, so get busy.

**Gemini****May 22 - June 21**

Today's new moon is sure to bring changes in one or more important relationships. Whether they are the kind of changes you enjoy remains to be seen but they are certainly changes that are needed, so don't fight them.

**Cancer****June 22 - July 23**

The more you do now, while you are in the mood to work, the less you will have to do later when you are not. Just remember that you don't have to do something simply because everyone else is doing it.

**Leo****July 24 - Aug. 23**

A new moon in the most creative area of your chart gives you the kind of confidence you need to move mountains. Both in your personal life and at work you are capable of great things, so don't sell your talents short.

**Virgo****Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**

Sometimes it is smart to let your rivals win and this could be one of those occasions. If it gives them the impression that you are losing your grip, it will make it easier for you to win the battles that count!

**Libra****Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**

Someone you meet today could become more than a friend, so get up and get out into the world. If a stranger catches your eye, follow it up with a smile and a chat. One thing leads to another.

**Scorpio****Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**

You need to come to a decision today about a money matter and the planets will make it easy for you. There is really only one option on the table that is worth pursuing, so commit to it and make it pay.

**Sagittarius****Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**

A new moon in your birth sign means you will find it easy to get your way over the next 24 hours. Does that fill your head with all sorts of outrageous ideas? It should! There are no limits (for you).

**Capricorn****Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**

How and why did you allow yourself to get worked up about something so trivial? Whatever the reason, you must now stand back from the situation and see it for what it is: a minor inconvenience, nothing more.

**Aquarius****Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**

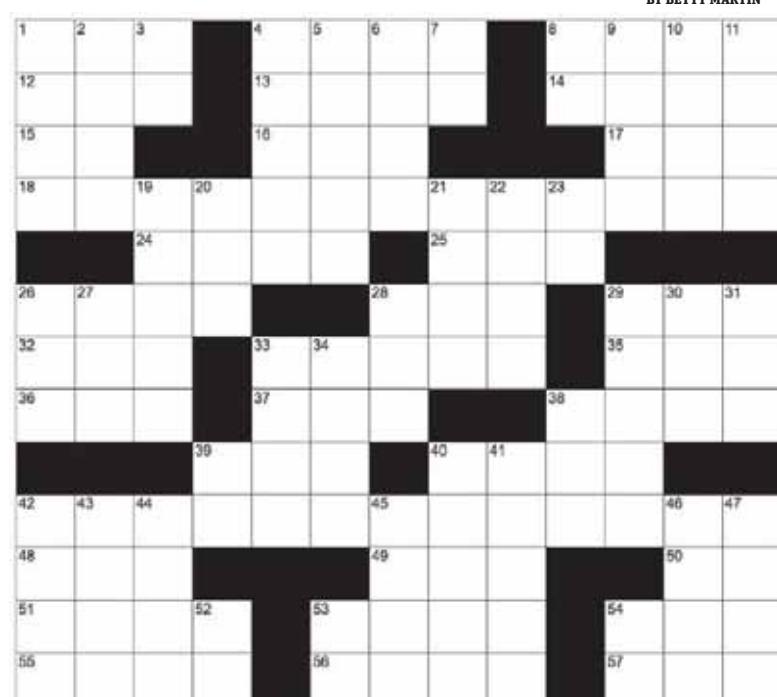
You will need to choose between one group of friends and another today. Your time is limited and you can only do justice to one set of commitments, so choose wisely. You can make it up to your other friends later.

**Pisces****Feb. 20 - March 20**

Don't get so carried away with your plans and big ideas that you overlook the little things on which they depend. Remember: genius is 10 per cent inspiration and 90 per cent perspiration — yes, even for a Pisces. SALLY BROMPTON

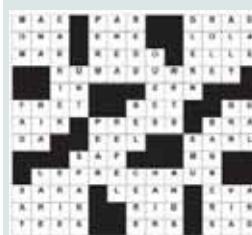
**Crossword****Across**

- Nightmare street
- Ruse
- Asian nurse
- Cocoon
- Cornic/actress Tomlin
- Ward of Once and Again
- Musical group: — Vogue
- American Music Awards (abbr.)
- Refusals
- 1970's Dick Van Patten series (3 words)
- Toward sunrise
- Sanford and —
- Planet nearest but one to earth
- Paulo, Brazil
- Coffee container
- Aspire
- Repeat over
- Oath affirmation (2 words)
- Speech hesitation
- Runner
- The — Griffith Show
- Coupe or convertible
- Send forth
- Beatles hit song (4 words)
- Stout
- Boathouse item
- Medical drama which starred George Clooney
- Emily of New —
- Small branch
- Form of address
- Hang
- Model MacPherson
- Capone and Capp
- Down**
- Fencing sword
- Burt Reynolds ex.
- Marcus Welby, —
- Some shoes
- Margin
- Woe is me!
- Wife and Kids



- The World Turn
- Restaurant offering
- Like a bump on — (2 words)
- Jumble
- Bacteria
- This Hour — 22 Minutes
- Actor Morales of NYPD Blue
- Lunch time for many
- Strangers — Train"
- Screen siren West
- America"
- Droop
- Mottled bean
- The — Couple
- Christmas trinket
- Type of horse
- Wise one
- Be indisposed
- Hartford state.
- High-tech message

- Unite
- Sleep under the stars
- Salve plant
- Inert gas
- Wail
- Bridal accessory
- Goofs
- Fargo state
- Diem
- Peru's continent (abbr.)

**Yesterday's Crossword****Sudoku**

**How to play**  
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

**Yesterday's Sudoku**

5	4	7	8	6	1	3	2	9
6	9	1	3	4	2	5	8	7
2	3	8	9	5	7	1	4	6
4	1	2	5	7	3	9	6	8
3	5	6	4	8	9	7	1	2
8	7	9	1	2	6	4	3	5
7	6	5	2	3	4	8	9	1
9	2	3	7	1	8	6	5	4
1	8	4	6	9	5	2	7	3

8	2	4	6	
2	7	6	5	
6				8
5	4	2	1	9

3	9	5	8	4
2				6
3	5	2	9	
4	3	7	1	

**Weather****TODAY**MAX: -6°  
MIN: -15°**FRIDAY**MAX: -4°  
MIN: -12°**SATURDAY**MAX: -7°  
MIN: -11°

**MICHELE McDougall**  
**WEATHER SPECIALIST**  
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#08MITS1  
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#11KIAF1  
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#11FORD1  
\$14,233



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#11DODG1  
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#12DODA1  
\$15,376



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#12CHEV2  
\$15,876



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#08HOND1  
\$16,319



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#11SUKZ1  
\$16,731



2009 NISSAN ALTIMA COUPE  
#09NISS1  
\$16,933



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#10DODC1  
\$17,978



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#09NISS2  
\$18,129



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#09GMC1  
\$18,243



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#10HYUN1  
\$18,764



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#10GMC2  
\$19,810



2009 GMC 1500 CREW SLE  
#09GMC1  
\$19,852



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#11RAMD1  
\$20,300



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#09GMC2  
\$20,496



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**2007 PRIUS** #C500762A  
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**2006 TACOMA** #P0926  
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**2010 VENZA** #P0920  
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